

McCordsville

ESTD  1988

INDIANA

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Monday October 2, 2023

Present: Kim Pearson, Branden Williams, Justin Bastin, Susie Highley, Mary Harmon (arrived at 6:04pm)

Absent: Catherine Witsman

Also Present: Tim Gropp, Dennis Otten, Jennifer Hudson, Niki Jones

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by Ms. Pearson. Ms. Harmon arrived at 6:04pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Highley moved to approve the July 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Bastin seconded and passed 3/0.

Old Business

Path to Fitness 5K Recap

Mr. Gropp informed the board that the town received mostly local support to fund the 5K this year. The event raised \$8,350 from sponsorships and another \$2,096.10 from registrations. In total, \$10,471.10 was raised from the 5K. Expenses included Race Maker race logistics, t-shirts, advertising for a total of \$4,700.

Mr. Gropp suggested to donate a portion of the funds raised to the Community Foundation for the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund of \$2,500 to build the account for future park needs.

Ms. Highley motioned to send \$2,500 to the Community Foundation for the Building a Brighter McCordsville Fund. Mr. Bastin seconded and passed 4/0.

Party in the Park Recap

Mr. Gropp stated that this was the first year for the Party in the Park event. The town received strong support with sponsorships as it was quite a bit more expensive than other events. The community gave very positive feedback, attendance was great, and the weather was beautiful. Vendors and sponsorships helped to raise \$6,300. The community seemed to really like this event and is something that we should plan for again.

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2024 Park Department Plans Update

Mr. Gropp explained that it has become clear that establishing a true Parks and Recreation Department and to get it running as soon as possible is a priority. There are many park studies upcoming, events, establishing a new community center, current park renovations, activities, programming, and future park needs that will need to be addressed soon. One of the current town vehicles will be used as a vehicle for the new department.

A recommendation will be made to the Town Council to hire a Parks Director in the new year as well as adding an Events and Programming Coordinator to establish the Parks and Recreation Department.

New Business

Trunk or Treat – October 29th 4pm-6pm

The Town will be participating in two Trunk or Treats this year. Hancock Wellness McCordsville will be hosting one that the town will participate in on October 20th and then the Town's Trunk or Treat will be held at the parking lot of Outlook Church like last year on October 29th. The Town will be giving out free hotdogs and chips as well as candy and glow in the dark safety bracelets.

Tree Lighting Event – Friday, December 1st 6pm-8pm

There will be a new Santa Claus this year that will be more interactive with photo opportunities. Second Stories is refurbishing a new bench for the Santa photos to sit in front of the backdrop that was purchased. The Town will also provide interactive activities such as writing letters to Santa, free cookies and craft kits and the Mt. Vernon Middle School band and the McCordsville Elementary Choir will also be performing. There will be gourmet hot chocolate for sale from Moo & Lou. The town will also host The Giving Tree to help local families with gift donations again this year.

Resolution 100223 Declaratory Resolution Approving Park District Bond

Mr. Gropp explained that with the upcoming budget for the new year, there are many projects that the town will undertake that will need funding. The Park Board was initially established as a Park District that has bonding capacity.

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Mr. Gropp introduced Mr. Otten and Ms. Hudson to the Parks Board. Mr. Otten is the town's bond counsel and explained that as the town grows and parks grow, there will be opportunities for Park bonds. Ms. Hudson is the financial advisor for the town and analyzes the cost to issuance of bonds.

Mr. Gropp explained future park plans and how to use bonds to help with the costs. The town is looking at using approximately 1-1.25 million to help fund the future projects which will include amenities at McCord Square and renovations at Old School Park which would include infrastructure, parking, concrete, improved playground equipment, poured rubber surfacing, etc. There will also be feasibility studies in the 5-year master plan for site design, analysis of a sports park and possibly hiring a consultant.

There will also be costs of acquiring and renovations of the new Community Center which is currently the McCordsville Volunteer Fire Station. This would also be the headquarters of the Parks Department.

Old School Park will be using ARPA dollars for infrastructure, but the bond will help with the amenities of phase 1.

McCord Square will be aided by a \$25,000 community grant to include interactive water features. Mr. Gropp displayed visual concept ideas. There would be a recommendation of an interactive water ball feature in a common area near the IUHealth building.

Mr. Otten explained this Declaratory Resolution that states a need for park improvements and that there will be a public hearing set to hear comments at the next Parks Board meeting. Mr. Gropp explained that this would also need approval from Town Council.

Resolution 100223A – Bond Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Special Taxing District Bonds.

This resolution is the contract with the bond holders with the terms along with exhibits of the projects. This bond would be paid via property tax and would be federally tax exempt.

Ms. Hudson explained funding and terms of the bonds.

The third resolution is an appropriation resolution and would include a public hearing to spend the funds.

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Ms. Highley motioned to approve Resolution 100223. Ms. Harmon seconded and passed 4/0.

Ms. Highley motioned to approve Resolution 100223A. Mr. Bastin seconded and passed 4/0.

Christmas Lights Contract 2023

Mr. Gropp stated that this year's contract includes a discount that will allow for more lights to be installed throughout town. The additional lights will include the shelter at Old School Park as well as more trees at Town Hall.

Ms. Highley motioned to authorize Mr. Gropp to sign the contract with House Wash Indy for Christmas Light installation in the amount of \$7,070.60. Mr. Bastin seconded and passed 4/0.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

November 13, 2023 at 6:00pm

Adjourn

Mr. Bastin motioned to adjourn. Ms. Highley seconded and passed 4/0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

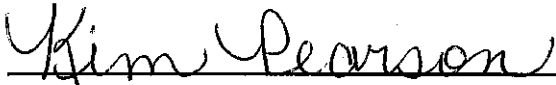
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Minutes Approval

These October 2, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting minutes approved this 13th day of November 2023.



Kim Pearson, Parks and Recreation Board President

Attest: 

Niki Jones, Recording Secretary